

# Is technology actually GOOD for children?

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In modern society we are giving more and more technology to kids. Whether this is a good thing depends on who you ask.

Some say giving kids more access to computers gives them an opportunity of a head start in learning how to use them, giving them an edge in succeeding in an ever more computerized world. Others say computers are depriving kids of natural play, exercise, and in some cases even interfering with brain development.

Some say it is giving children never-before-seen abilities to connect with other kids from all over the globe, giving them access to other cultures, points of view, and ways of seeing the world. Others say the reliance on computers and social networking is stunting kids' development of real face-to-face social skills which are crucial to success in the real world.

Some say the web gives kids never before seen access to information. From Wikipedia to online books, from online education to youtube how-to manuals, kids can now find the answer to more questions than their parents or teachers could ever know. Others point out that with all that information come video games, advertising, and child-centered marketing which is undermining parents' ability to instill wisdom and values in the next generation. They say the child-centered marketing is promoting narcissism and materialism to kids --- promoting violence and aggression to boys and sexualization and negative body images to young girls.

Parents can't really always control what their kids use computers for and it is sometimes easier to restrict access than to be a censor. As parents, should we be encouraging our kids to use computers and smart phones at a young age or should we be sheltering them from the consequences that technology brings with it?

How young is too young?

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